

United States Senate

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I am writing in support of awarding the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Center of Excellence (COE) for Homeland Security in the Arctic discretionary grant to a university in Alaska. Regardless of which Alaska-based institution is chosen, the funding will advance DHS's goals in the Arctic.

The great state of Alaska is the reason the United States is an Arctic nation. Therefore, it is the only logical location to establish a COE for Homeland Security in the Arctic. From resource development and transportation routes to environmental protection to the region's strategic location for national defense, to the Arctic's cold-weather-hardened-but-warm-hearted people, the Arctic is growing in global importance and there is a lot at stake in the region. Fortunately for the United States, the people of Alaska are well-versed in all these matters with demonstrated leadership in Arctic research and sustainable development.

Alaska's applicants, the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, are accredited universities poised with the relationships and geographical location necessary to achieve the goals for the Arctic as outlined in the *2022 National Strategy for the Arctic Region*, the *2021 DHS Strategic Approach for Arctic Homeland Security*, and the *2019 U.S. Coast Guard Arctic Strategic Outlook*. While these goals were published by sources outside of Alaska, they directly pertain to Alaska's people, land, and interests. The University of Alaska can achieve these goals, because it prioritizes incorporation of traditional knowledge gained by listening to Alaska Native peoples and other Indigenous communities. These universities have a deep knowledge of the Arctic's interests and concerns. Either the University of Alaska Anchorage or the University of Alaska Fairbanks would be a strategic location from which to research, innovate, strategize, and lead in the Arctic region.

Thank you for your attention to these important proposals. Consistent with applicable law, policy, and guidance, I respectfully request that you give due consideration to all Alaska applications. I ask that you keep my office apprised of the outcome.

Sincerely,



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator